



# Shaping a Shared Future Through Scientific Cooperation: 25 Years of the Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group

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**Abstract:** The PfP Consortium established the Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group in 1999, originally as the Military History Working Group. The mission of the group has evolved from leveraging historical analysis for military education to addressing modern security challenges, such as hybrid warfare and disinformation. Through its conferences, professional military education curricula, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the group has fostered international scientific cooperation and enhanced NATO's strategic capabilities. This article reflects on the group's journey, emphasizing its adaptability in response to shifting global security dynamics and its role in promoting regional and transatlantic unity. It also highlights the group's innovative initiatives, including the introduction of concise, actionable Information Papers for policymakers. As it continues integrating historical insights with contemporary strategy, the group remains a vital resource for fostering intellectual exchange and addressing evolving security challenges.

**Keywords:** Partnership for Peace, NATO, PfP, PfP Consortium, professional military education, historical analysis, security studies, hybrid warfare, strategic cooperation.

## Introduction

Addressing the complexities of international security requires seamless collaboration among military professionals, academic scholars, and policymakers to shape informed and effective strategies. The Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group (CSWG) of the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense

Academies and Security Studies Institutes (PfPC) stands as a powerful example of such cooperation. Originally established in 1999 as the Military History Working Group (MHWG), this academic network has grown and evolved alongside the shifting security priorities of NATO and its partner nations, expanding its focus to address both historical and contemporary challenges in the Euro-Atlantic region.

The CSWG's foundational mission was rooted in the belief that understanding historical conflicts could provide invaluable lessons for military strategy and doctrine. Over the decades, this mission has grown to reflect the shifting contours of the security environment. From its initial focus on the study of military history, the group has expanded its scope to address modern conflict and emerging security challenges such as hybrid warfare, disinformation, and the strategic impact of technological advancements. This evolution underscores the group's responsiveness to NATO's broader strategic priorities and the growing need for multidimensional approaches to global security.

At its core, the CSWG serves as a bridge between history and strategy, academia and practice, fostering intellectual exchange that transcends national and institutional boundaries. Through scholarly conferences, professional military education initiatives, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the group has established itself as a critical platform for cultivating innovative thinking and enhancing mutual understanding among NATO allies and partners. This mission enriches military education and strengthens international cooperation by building networks of trust and shared expertise.

The CSWG's adaptability and commitment to relevance ensure its enduring importance in the field of security studies. By integrating historical analysis with the imperatives of contemporary strategy, the group provides invaluable perspectives for addressing today's challenges while preparing for tomorrow's uncertainties. In doing so, the CSWG continues to play a vital role in shaping the intellectual and strategic foundations of Euro-Atlantic defense, bridging lessons from the past with the demands of a rapidly changing security landscape.

## **Historical Context and Development of the Military History Working Group**

As NATO sought to redefine its role in a post-Soviet world, it faced the challenge of integrating former adversaries and new partners into a shared security framework. The Partnership for Peace (PfP) program, launched in 1994, served as the cornerstone of this integration effort, and scientific cooperation proved to be an important component of this initiative. In this specific context, the Military History Working Group was established under the PfPC auspices as a response to NATO's changing strategic needs after the end of the Cold War. The group was officially organized on April 6, 2000, in Garmisch, Germany, and two months later, during the PfPC meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, the German-American proposal to establish the group was formally approved. The initial membership of the working group included Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland,

Romania, Russia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Over time, the group expanded to incorporate representatives of Austria, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey. Additionally, the following nations participated as guests: Azerbaijan, Croatia, Georgia, Israel, Japan, North Macedonia, Moldova, South Africa, South Korea, and Ukraine. Various Central and Eastern European nations hosted symposiums, while the Western European co-chair handled administration and funding.<sup>1</sup>

The MHWG's mission was initially focused on military history, using lessons from past conflicts to better understand current developments and inform military thinking. This focus was grounded in the belief that understanding the historical foundations of military strategy could provide valuable insights into preventing future conflicts and the conduct of modern warfare. The group's conferences and discussions were designed to allow NATO and partner countries to compare military history case studies and national perspectives, exchange strategic insights, and build a common understanding of military doctrines and practices.

In its early years, by examining examples of military history, the group aimed to assist military professionals in gaining a deeper understanding of the context surrounding contemporary security challenges. This period was characterized by a strong emphasis on learning from the past, with military history being leveraged to inform and guide contemporary military thought and practice.

## **Financial Foundations and Organizational Developments**

The working group has undergone a series of financial and organizational transformations reflecting the shifting geopolitical landscape and evolving institutional needs. From its inception, it faced challenges tied to funding and governance, which ultimately shaped its capacity to adapt, expand its focus, and continue to play a significant role in fostering international cooperation and advancing academic inquiry into both historical and contemporary security issues.

In the early years, the MHWG benefited significantly from the financial backing provided by the Partnership for Peace Consortium, particularly through the Warsaw Initiative Fund (WIF).<sup>2</sup> This funding was critical, enabling the group to organize conferences and seminars that brought together military professionals, academics, and policy experts from NATO and PfP nations. The WIF supported

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<sup>1</sup> Carmen Sorina Rîjnoveanu and Jakob Brink Rasmussen, eds., *The Use of Military Forces in Domestic Affairs: Lessons from the Past, Current Issues and Future Developments* (Bucharest, Romania: Military Publishing House, 2018), Appendix E. Conflict Studies Working Group. A Short History, pp. 249-267.

<sup>2</sup> For more details on the Warsaw Initiative Fund, see Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Defense, "Joint Warfighting and Readiness: DoD Execution of the Warsaw Initiative Program," Report No. D-2005-085, July 1, 2005, accessed November 18, 2024, <https://media.defense.gov/2005/Jul/01/2001713091/-1/-1/1/05-085.pdf>.

logistical arrangements, including the translation services that made the group's discussions accessible to a broader international audience and allowed the participation of countries with limited resources. The funding allowed the MHWG to thrive as a platform for intellectual exchange, offering a forum for discussing military history's relevance to contemporary security challenges.

### ***Geopolitical Shifts and Financial Retrenchment***

By 2005, significant geopolitical and fiscal changes began to affect the financial sustainability of the MHWG. A key factor was the substantial reduction of the financial commitments by the U.S. Department of Defense – a major contributor to the PfPC's budget. This reduction was part of a broader reassessment of defense spending priorities, influenced by NATO's evolving strategy and the changing global security environment. As a result, the MHWG faced considerable financial challenges, particularly for countries that had relied on the WIF to participate in its activities. In 2006, the situation worsened when the group found itself organizing its annual conference without external financial support. To address this, the MHWG sought alternative funding, including ad-hoc contributions from institutions such as the U.S. Center of Military History, which helped cover the costs of non-NATO participants. However, the PfPC could not accept external funding due to internal constraints, leaving the MHWG to operate under significant financial austerity.<sup>3</sup>

The elimination of translation services in 2007, where English became the sole working language for seminars, marked the beginning of a new era of self-sufficiency. This austerity measure, while limiting inclusivity, was necessary to reduce costs and continue the group's operations amidst shrinking financial resources. Despite these challenges, the MHWG demonstrated resilience, continuing its academic exchanges and adapting its operational model to survive.

### ***Rebranding for Relevance: Expanding Scope and Shift in Focus***

Amid these financial and organizational challenges, the MHWG recognized the need for a strategic rebranding to expand its intellectual scope and maintain its relevance within NATO's evolving security context. In 2009, the MHWG underwent a significant transformation, rebranding itself as the Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group. This shift in focus reflected the changing dynamics of modern warfare, recognizing the increasing importance of hybrid conflicts, disinformation, cyber threats, and other contemporary security challenges that required a broader analytical framework. The rebranding was not simply a name change but a reflection of the group's expanding scope beyond military history. The CSWG sought to include the study of current security dynamics, military strategy, and the evolving nature of global conflict. This broadened scope allowed the group to contribute more directly to NATO's contemporary strategic needs, aligning its work with the alliance's priorities and addressing emerging threats less dependent on historical military analysis.

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<sup>3</sup> Appendix E. Conflict Studies Working Group. A Short History.

By the early 2010s, the CSWG managed to re-establish its relationship with the PfPC, but under a new funding model that reflected both the financial constraints and the changing priorities within NATO and its partner nations. This new phase of cooperation, which began in 2012,<sup>4</sup> was characterized by a measured re-engagement of the PfPC, with the Consortium agreeing to provide limited financial assistance, primarily aimed at covering the costs of participants from NATO's Partner countries, particularly those from Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova. These nations, which had faced growing security challenges and were in the midst of significant political and military transitions, benefited from the CSWG's academic resources and were able to engage in meaningful dialogue about their security challenges within the broader Euro-Atlantic framework.

The integration of these new partners, particularly from countries with emerging security concerns, underscored the CSWG's importance as a platform for bridging divides and enhancing cooperation across the region. The support from the PfPC, though limited, helped ensure that participants from countries with fewer resources could continue to contribute to and benefit from the group's intellectual exchanges.

## **Key Contributions of the CSWG to International Scientific Collaboration and Advancements in Military Education**

### ***Building Bridges between NATO and Partner Countries***

One of the most significant achievements of the CSWG has been its role in fostering regional cooperation and trust-building, particularly by bridging divides between NATO and non-NATO countries. The group's commitment to dialogue and intellectual exchange has created a neutral platform for historians, researchers, and military and civilian professionals from diverse nations and regions to engage in meaningful discussions on military history and security studies. Through its annual conferences, the CSWG has facilitated collaboration and learning between participants from both NATO member states and partner countries, promoting mutual understanding and cooperation among countries with diverse political and military backgrounds.

By engaging military professionals and scholars from former Soviet states, the Balkans, and other regions with histories of political tension or military conflict, the CSWG has played a constructive role in promoting a more cohesive and integrated security community across Europe through scientific cooperation. This engagement has been particularly valuable for countries previously outside the alliance, as it has enhanced their understanding of NATO's strategic priorities and facilitated closer cooperation within the broader Euro-Atlantic security framework.

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<sup>4</sup> Ernst M. Felberbauer and Enrico Müller, eds., *PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes: Annual Report 2012* (Vienna and Garmisch-Partenkirchen: PfP Consortium, March 2013), 12, <https://www.pfp-consortium.org/media/283/download>.

### **Professional Military Education and Strategic Education**

In addition to its pivotal work in regional cooperation, the CSWG has made substantial contributions to Professional Military Education (PME), particularly in shaping curricula within NATO and partner countries. A key achievement in this regard is the creation of the Counterinsurgency (COIN) Reference Curriculum, finalized in 2017.<sup>5</sup> This curriculum was developed through the coordinated efforts of the Counterinsurgency Working Group (COIN WG), which organized workshops and brought together experts to draft a comprehensive guide on counterinsurgency operations. The COIN curriculum is a reference for military professionals and organizations within NATO member states and partner countries seeking to develop or enhance their PME in this area.<sup>6</sup>

The COIN curriculum draws on historical lessons and contemporary operational experiences, offering valuable insights for military professionals engaged in complex, multidimensional conflicts. By synthesizing historical perspectives with modern counterinsurgency tactics, the CSWG provides a valuable resource to help military personnel face the evolving challenges of contemporary conflicts.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to the COIN Curriculum, the CSWG has actively sought synergies with other working groups within the PfPC, facilitating collaboration on common projects and events. The CSWG has contributed its expertise to conferences and other scientific initiatives organized by other PfPC groups, notably working with the Education Development Working Group (EDWG DEEP) to implement the COIN curriculum and collaborating with the Emerging Security Challenges Working Group to advance the development of a Hybrid Threats and Warfare Curriculum.<sup>8</sup> These collaborations have been essential in strengthening the overall impact of professional military education across the alliance and its partners.

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<sup>5</sup> Carmen Sorina Rîjnoveanu, "Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group," in *PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes: Annual Report 2018*, ed. Raphael Perl (Vienna and Garmisch Partenkirchen: PfP Consortium, 2018), 74-75, <https://www.pfp-consortium.org/media/278/download>.

<sup>6</sup> Initiated in 2015 and finalized in 2017, the curriculum aimed to promote intellectual and professional interoperability across NATO and its partners. Its primary goals included fostering collaboration, providing a foundation for standardized COIN education, and encouraging dialogue within defense academies and military institutions on preparing forces for counterinsurgency operations in complex environments. See: Carmen Sorina Rîjnoveanu and Jakob Brink Rasmussen, "Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group," in *PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes: Annual Report 2016*, ed. Raphael Perl (Vienna and Garmisch Partenkirchen: PfP Consortium, 2017), 59-61, <https://www.pfp-consortium.org/media/279/download>.

<sup>7</sup> "Appendix E. Conflict Studies Working Group. A Short History," 227-228.

<sup>8</sup> The CSWG's main contribution was providing historical case studies and contextual background, which helped to trace the evolution of hybrid warfare and its relevance in contemporary conflicts, serving as a resource for military professionals and scholars seeking to better grasp the complexities of hybrid threats.

Through its work, the CSWG has made significant contributions not only to shaping NATO's PME frameworks but also to enriching strategic thinking with historical perspectives. By integrating lessons from military history with contemporary conflict analysis, the group has fostered broader intellectual exchanges that help inform and refine NATO's strategic approaches. The CSWG's conferences, workshops, and research initiatives provide a platform for military professionals, scholars, and policy experts to engage in meaningful dialogue, ensuring that NATO's operational concepts remain dynamic and informed by historical insights and the latest developments in conflict studies.

## **Recent Innovations and Future Directions: Enhancing Relevance and Expanding Impact**

### ***The Information Paper: A New Approach for Policymakers***

In recent years, the CSWG has sought to innovate and increase its relevance to policymakers within NATO and partner countries. One of the most significant developments in this regard has been the introduction of the *Information Paper* – a concise, editorial product designed to provide policymakers with clear and actionable insights derived from the group's conferences and research.

The *Information Paper* serves as an essential resource for decision-makers seeking quick access to key insights and recommendations on contemporary security challenges. By distilling complex scientific discussions into a concise and accessible format, the Information Paper enables policymakers to make well-informed decisions without being encumbered by the extensive detail typically found in academic papers or lengthy research reports.

The publication of *Information Papers* represents a significant shift in the CSWG's approach to disseminating its findings. Traditionally, the group's main editorial product has been the publication of annual conference proceedings, which, while comprehensive and in-depth, primarily target experts and scholars familiar with complex and lengthy materials. In contrast, the introduction of the *Information Paper* marks a move toward producing more concise, practical, and actionable outputs designed to engage a broader audience. These papers offer the group's outcomes in a more accessible format, making them directly relevant to decision-makers and bridging the academic community with professionals and military and political leadership.

### ***Expanding the Network of Experts and Enhancing Digital Engagement***

In recent years, a significant development within the CSWG has been its strategic focus on expanding and diversifying its network of experts. By fostering a more inclusive network, the CSWG has integrated a wider array of perspectives and specialized knowledge, enhancing its impact and strengthening its relevance within the global academic and professional communities.

As the security landscape evolves, the CSWG has recognized the importance of engaging experts from a wide range of disciplines, including cybersecurity, communications, international relations, psychology, economics, and law. This



interdisciplinary approach enhances the CSWG's ability to effectively address the complex nature of modern conflicts by incorporating diverse perspectives and expertise. Additionally, the CSWG has begun exploring innovative ways to engage its growing network of experts through digital platforms, thereby broadening its reach and fostering enhanced interaction between military historians, professionals, scholars, and policymakers.

### ***Leveraging Military History to Address Emerging Threats and Security Trends***

As global security threats evolve, the CSWG plays a crucial role in providing historical perspectives essential for understanding and addressing contemporary challenges. Issues such as hybrid warfare, the rise of non-state actors, and the resurgence of great power competition are increasingly central to NATO's strategic priorities. Confronting these emerging threats effectively requires not only contemporary solutions but also insights derived from past conflicts. The CSWG's focus on military history, combined with its interdisciplinary approach, offers valuable lessons that can inform both current decision-making and future preparedness.

By examining historical case studies, the CSWG can help reframe traditional military strategies and tactics to better suit the complexities of modern conflicts. For example, past experiences with hybrid warfare and irregular conflicts can provide guidance on how NATO should respond to adversaries utilizing non-traditional methods. Furthermore, studying the historical dynamics of great power rivalries equips the CSWG with critical insights into how NATO might address the current resurgence of strategic competition globally.

This ability to bridge conventional military history with emerging forms of conflict allows the CSWG to remain at the cutting edge of strategic thinking. Combining historical knowledge with a forward-looking perspective, the group ensures that military strategies are adaptable to evolving security challenges. This synthesis of past experiences and contemporary concerns makes the CSWG an invaluable resource for historians, military professionals, scholars, and policymakers.

Past conference topics such as "Regular and Irregular Warfare – Experiences of History and Contemporary Armed Conflicts,"<sup>9</sup> "Alliance Planning and Coalition Warfare: Historical and Contemporary Approaches,"<sup>10</sup> and "Shaping Nations for Conflict and War. Propaganda, Disinformation and Strategic Communication. Implications for Policy Makers"<sup>11</sup> highlight the CSWG's capacity to offer relevant

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<sup>9</sup> Harold E. Raugh Jr., ed., *Regular and Irregular Warfare: Experiences of Historical and Contemporary Armed Conflicts*, compiled by Dalibor Denda (Belgrade: Institute for Strategic Research, 2012).

<sup>10</sup> Harold E. Raugh Jr., ed., *Alliance Planning and Coalition Warfare: Historical and Contemporary Approaches*, compiled by M. Christian Ortner and Dalibor Denda (Belgrade: Institute for Strategic Research, 2019).

<sup>11</sup> Carmen Sorina Rijnoveanu and Claudia Læssøe Pedersen, *Shaping Nations for Conflict and War: Propaganda, Disinformation and Strategic Communication. Implications for*



insights into NATO's current strategic priorities. By reflecting on historical patterns, the CSWG aids NATO in adapting its strategies to counter both traditional and non-traditional security threats.

## **Building Unity Through History: The CSWG's Role in Shaping a Cohesive Security Mindset**

### ***Promoting a Shared European and Transatlantic Identity***

In a landscape shaped by a diverse mix of national identities and conflicting historical narratives, the CSWG stands out for its mission to create a unified security framework based on shared values and mutual understanding. Its primary goal is to encourage participants to view themselves not merely as members of individual nation-states but as part of an interconnected global security community. The CSWG highlights the common experiences of war and conflict, acknowledging their enduring human cost. This inclusive approach aims to unite nations and foster cooperation in addressing modern security challenges by transcending their individual histories.

Through its conferences, the CSWG provides a platform for engagement where nations are encouraged to move beyond historical grievances and focus on the collective future of security. Whether it is dealing with the aftermath of Cold War legacies, forging military alliances, or considering the reintegration of veterans into post-conflict societies, the CSWG consistently works to foster an environment conducive to collaborative and forward-thinking security policies. By addressing these shared human experiences, such as the trauma of war and the struggles of post-conflict societies, the CSWG enables nations to confront their historical divides while working toward a unified approach to future security concerns.

At the heart of the CSWG's mission is its engagement with historical memory, a powerful force that shapes national identities and influences political discourse and international relations. The impact of differing historical interpretations—particularly those related to wars and occupations—remains profound, often hindering reconciliation and obstructing long-term peace. The CSWG advocates for an open engagement with these issues, providing a platform where participants can confront and critically examine the tensions arising from conflicting historical memories. This approach facilitates constructive dialogue to foster mutual understanding and reconcile divergent perspectives on past conflicts.

Through its conferences, such as "The Role of Territorial Defence Forces in Peace and War" (2019)<sup>12</sup> and "Shaping Nations for Conflict and War: Propa-

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*Policy Makers*, compiled by Cristina Brăgea (Bucharest: Military Publishing House, 2024).

<sup>12</sup> Zoltán Jobbágy, Viktor Andaházi Szeghy, Fredrik Eriksson, and Peter A. Kiss, eds., *The Role of Territorial Defense Forces in Peace and War: Proceedings of the 19th Annual Conference of the Partnership for Peace Consortium Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies*

ganda, Disinformation, and Strategic Communication” (2023),<sup>13</sup> the CSWG critically examines how historical narratives continue to be exploited by various actors to deepen divisions and hinder collective security. By directly engaging with historical memory, the CSWG emphasizes the need to understand history accurately to prevent its distortion and manipulation by those who seek to use it for political or ideological gain. In a world where unresolved historical issues still affect contemporary geopolitics, the CSWG’s commitment to fostering an informed and nuanced understanding of history plays a vital role in countering the potential misuse of the past. This approach promotes cooperation and safeguards against the misuse of history, which could otherwise undermine efforts toward peace and stability.

### ***The Role of Conflicting Memories in Shaping National and Regional Security***

The CSWG plays an essential role in addressing the security implications of conflicting historical memories. Nations’ security policies are deeply influenced by collective memories of past conflicts, occupations, and alliances, which continue to shape contemporary security dynamics. As demonstrated by the CSWG’s 2009 conference on “End of Empires: Challenges to Security and Statehood in Flux,”<sup>14</sup> the dissolution of empires and struggles for independence have resulted in complex narratives that still influence modern security concerns. These national memories often generate mistrust between countries with divergent histories, creating significant barriers to regional cooperation.

For example, in Central and Eastern Europe, the legacy of past political domination continues to affect security. Nations often view certain international actions through the lens of historical trauma, interpreting them as echoes of past oppressive regimes. As highlighted in the CSWG’s 2003 conference, “NATO and the Warsaw Pact: The Formative Years, 1948-1968,” the enduring legacies of the Cold War continue to shape defense strategies and regional security concerns in the region. For nations that have lived through such domination, confronting and understanding these historical memories is critical to overcoming mistrust and promoting cooperation.

By engaging directly with these sensitive historical issues, the CSWG helps create an environment where nations can address the enduring effects of past conflicts. This approach not only aids in overcoming the barriers created by conflicting memories but also enhances the development of cooperative security policies that are essential for long-term stability and peace in the region.

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*Working Group, Budapest, Hungary, 27-31 May 2019* (Budapest: Hungarian Defence Forces Scientific Research Centre, 2020).

<sup>13</sup> Rijnoveanu and Pedersen, *Shaping Nations for Conflict and War*.

<sup>14</sup> Harold E. Raugh Jr., ed., *End of Empires: Challenges to Security and Statehood in Flux*, compiled by Sergiu Iosipescu and Carmen Rijnoveanu (Bucharest: Military Publishing House, 2010).

### **Bridging Divides for Long-Term Peace**

The CSWG recognizes that overcoming historical divisions is essential not only for resolving past conflicts but also for ensuring lasting peace. Through discussions such as the 2006 conference on “Exiting War: Post-Conflict Military Operations,”<sup>15</sup> the group addresses the immediate security challenges and the long-term grievances that can fuel ongoing tensions. By examining both the cessation of hostilities and the reconciliation of memories, the CSWG promotes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable peace.

Reintegrating former combatants and addressing societal traumas are also central to this process. As explored in the CSWG’s 2016 conference on “Veterans and Society, Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants through History,”<sup>16</sup> addressing the legacies of conflict is about rebuilding societies and healing the psychological wounds of those who have fought. The CSWG’s commitment to addressing historical narratives in this context contributes significantly to the broader peacebuilding agenda.

In the context of multinational cooperation, particularly within NATO, the CSWG’s work on historical memory and reconciliation is crucial. The 2005 conference on “Multinational Operations, Alliances, and International Military Cooperation”<sup>17</sup> exemplified the complexities of building trust among nations with vastly different historical experiences, especially when those experiences involve war, occupation, or colonialism. The CSWG offers invaluable insights into navigating these issues to foster effective cooperation in contemporary international security efforts.

### **Conclusion: Can the CSWG Make History ... and Shape the Future?**

The Euro-Atlantic Conflict Studies Working Group has made an essential contribution to international scientific collaboration and the study of military history, thereby contributing to the development of Professional Military Education. Since its inception as the Military History Working Group, this platform has evolved in response to shifting global security dynamics. While expanding its focus to address emerging challenges and new forms of contemporary conflict, the

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<sup>15</sup> Miloslav Čaplovič, Mária Stanová, and André Rakoto, eds., *Exiting War: Post-Conflict Military Operations*, 6th International Conference, Military History Working Group, Bratislava 3-7 April 2006 (Bratislava – Château de Vincennes, 2007), [www.vhu.sk/data/files/220.pdf](http://www.vhu.sk/data/files/220.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> Vladimir Prebilič and Damijan Guštin, eds., *Veterans and Society, Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants through History*, 16th Annual Conference of the Partnership for Peace Consortium Conflict Studies Working Group, Ljubljana, 4-7 July, 2016 (Ljubljana: Pokrajinski muzej Kočevje, Institut za novejšo zgodovino, 2017).

<sup>17</sup> Robert S. Rush and William W. Epley, eds., *Multinational Operations, Alliances, and International Military Cooperation: Past and Future*, Proceedings of the Fifth Workshop of the Partnership for Peace Consortium’s Military History Working Group, Vienna, Austria, 4-8 April 2005 (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 2006), <https://www.pfp-consortium.org/media/272/download>.

group has consistently emphasized the importance of historical analysis in understanding and addressing modern security issues.

As the global security landscape evolves, the CSWG's ability to adapt and innovate will remain crucial to its continuous success. By strengthening its network of experts, integrating interdisciplinary perspectives, and leveraging digital platforms to broaden its reach, the CSWG continues to serve as an influential resource for military historians, scholars, and policymakers. Its work not only provides valuable historical insights but also contributes to a more nuanced understanding of contemporary conflicts.

Moreover, by aligning its focus with PfPC priorities, the CSWG ensures that both its traditional activities and future initiatives remain closely aligned with the Consortium's evolving needs, objectives, and strategic goals. This alignment enables the group to contribute meaningfully to the broader aims of the PfPC, offering a comprehensive view of the changing nature of conflict and war while providing invaluable historical insights to address contemporary security challenges. Through this adaptive approach, the CSWG is committed to remaining a crucial asset and tool for the PfPC community in the years to come.

Ultimately, the CSWG's role in fostering intellectual interoperability and scientific cooperation guarantees its continued relevance within the Euro-Atlantic scientific community. By bridging the lessons of the past with the complexities of the present and the challenges of the future, the CSWG remains a valuable resource, offering a reflection on our shared history and a framework for addressing the evolving security challenges.

## Disclaimer

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Partnership for Peace Consortium or its governance stakeholders.

## About the Author

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